

CLAIMS

Now, therefore, the following is claimed:

- 1 1. ~~An automatic image enhancement system, comprising:~~
2 memory for storing digital data that defines a graphical image;
3 a face detector configured to analyze said digital data and to automatically
4 identify facial data within said digital data stored in said memory; and
5 an image enhancer configured to analyze said facial data identified by said face
6 detector and to automatically identify a portion of said facial data that defines a
7 particular facial feature, said image enhancer further configured to automatically
8 manipulate said portion for enhancing an appearance of said facial feature within said
9 graphical image.
- 1 2. The system of claim 1, wherein said system further comprises an input
2 device configured to receive an input, wherein said image enhancer is further
3 configured to select said facial feature based on said input.
- 1 3. The system of claim 1, wherein said image enhancer manipulates said
2 portions by blending color values associated with said portion.
- 1 4. The system of claim 1, wherein said image enhancer, by manipulating
2 said portion, blurs said appearance of said facial feature.
- 1 5. The system of claim 1, wherein said image enhancer, by manipulating
2 said portion, sharpens said appearance of said facial feature.

1 ~~6. The system of claim 1, wherein said image enhancer, by manipulating~~
2 ~~said portion, changes a color of said facial feature.~~

1 7. The system of claim 1, wherein said system includes an image
2 capturing device configured to receive an image of a scene and to produce said digital
3 data based on said image received by said image capturing device.

1 8. The system of claim 7, wherein said image capturing device includes a
2 lens for receiving said image and an image converter for producing said digital data
3 based on said image.

1 9. An automatic image enhancement system, comprising:
2 means for storing digital data that defines a graphical image;
3 face detecting means for analyzing said digital data and for automatically
4 identifying facial data within said digital data stored in said storing means; and
5 image enhancing means for analyzing said facial data identified by said face
6 detecting means, for automatically identifying a portion of said facial data that defines
7 a particular facial feature, and for automatically manipulating said portion to enhance
8 an appearance of said facial feature within said graphical image.

1 10. ~~A method for enhancing graphical images, comprising the steps of:~~
2 receiving digital data defining a graphical image;
3 automatically detecting facial data within said digital data;
4 searching said facial data for data that defines a particular facial feature;
5 automatically identifying, based on said searching step, a set of data defining
6 said particular facial feature; and
7 manipulating said set of data in response to said identifying step.

1 11. The method of claim 10, wherein said manipulating step includes the
2 step of blending color values within said set of data with other color values within
3 said facial data.

1 12. The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
2 receiving an input; and
3 selecting said particular facial feature based on said input,
4 wherein said searching step is based on said selecting step.

1 13. The method of claim 10, wherein said manipulating step causes a
2 blurring of an appearance of said particular facial feature when said particular facial
3 feature is displayed.

1 14. The method of claim 10, wherein said manipulating step causes a
2 sharpening of an appearance of said particular facial feature when said particular
3 facial feature is displayed.

1 ~~15. The method of claim 10, wherein said manipulating step affects a color~~
 2 of said particular facial feature when said particular facial feature is displayed.

1 16. The method of claim 10, further comprising the steps of:
 2 capturing an image of a scene; and
 3 defining said digital data based on said capturing step.

1 17. The method of claim 16, wherein said capturing step includes the steps
 2 of: receiving light via a lens; and
 3 converting said light into said digital data received in said receiving step.